

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 05334 311202Z

ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /061 W
-----020715 311204Z /75

O R 311133Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7451

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

RUQMHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 4453

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5334

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY DENIES ZIA HAS HAD HEART ATTACK

REF: A) ISLAMABAD 5298, B) ISLAMABAD DAO 301125Z MAY 78 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE THUS FAR FOUND NO CONFIRMATION OF THE REPORT
(REFTELS) THAT CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR (CMLA) GENERAL ZIA
UL-HAQ HAS SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK.

2. THE CMLA'S CONTINUING ABSENCE FROM THE PUBLIC EYE SINCE 25
MAY, HOWEVER, HAS NOW CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF THE PRESS AND THE
DIPLOMATIC CIRCUIT. SPECULATION RANGES AMONG OUR FELLOW DIPLOMATS
FROM A BAD CASE OF FLU TO A "DISC PROBLEM" IN HIS NECK TO
MUSCULAR SORENESS IN HIS BACK, NECK, AND SHOULDERS.

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3. URDU DAILY NAWA-I-WAQT'S CHIEF CORRESPONDENT IN RAWALPINDI
TOLD AN EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE TODAY THAT THE CMLA HAS HAD A MILD
HEART ATTACK AND WILL BE MOVED TO THE MILITARY HOSPITAL ON 1
JUNE.

4. USING CORRESPONDENT'S REPORT AS A PEGFKN I TELEPHONED FOREIGN

SECRETARY SHAHNAWAZ THIS AFTERNOON TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE GENERAL'S HEALTH. HE DENIED CATEGORICALLY THAT THE CMLA HAS HAD A HEART ATTACK OR THAT HE IS UNABLE TO WORK. ZIA, SHAHNAWAZ RECOUNTED, HAS BEEN SUFFERING FROM LUNG CONGESTION AND FEVER AND HAS THEREFORE CANCELLED HIS PUBLIC SCHEDULE. HE IS WORKING AT HIS CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF QUARTERS IN RAWALPINDI, AND FONSEC SAYS HE HAS SEEN HIM ALMOST EVERY DAY SINCE HIS CONFINEMENT.

5. I INTEND TO SEND HIM A GET WELL NOTE, AND EMBASSY WILL KEEP ON LOOKOUT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.
HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: PINT, SWEL, PK, (ZIA UL-HAQ, MOHAMMAD)
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